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Attorney Docket No. 1743.1002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Kohji NOMA et al.

Application No.: 10/608,080

Group Art Unit: 2123

Filed: June 30, 2003

Examiner: Unassigned

Confirmation No.: 7862

For: PROGRAM, METHOD, APPARATUS, AND SYSTEM FOR SUPPORTING PLANNING
OF VEHICLE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. ☒ Copy(ies) of IDS citation(s), except for U.S. Patents and U.S. Patent Application publications.
- 1c. ☒ Copies of Japanese Office Actions dated April 8, 2005 and November 1, 2005 from a foreign Patent Office or a PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. ☒ English language translation (complete, Abstract or relevant portion(s)) attached to non-English language publications as indicated on the attached Form PTO-1449.
- 1e. ☒ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of non-English publications.
- 1f. ☐ List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).
- 1g. ☒ List of Additional Submitted Documents (ATTACHMENT 1(g), hereto).

2. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(b):

(Check either Item 2a or 2b or 2c or 2d)

- 2a. ☐ Within three months of the filing date of a national application;
- 2b. ☐ Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application.
- 2c. ☒ Before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; or
- 2d. ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114.

3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 2 above but before the mailing date of any of a Final Office Action under § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, AND

(Check either Item 3a or 3b; Item 3b to be checked if any reference known for more than 3 months)

- 3a. ☐ The § 1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; OR
3b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) is:
☐ enclosed.
☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

4. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(d) after the period specified in paragraph 3 above, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee, AND

- 4a. ☐ The § 1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; AND
4b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) is:
☐ enclosed.
☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

5. ☐ Statement under § 1.97(e) *(applicable if Item 3a or Item 4a is checked)*
(Check either Item 5a or 5b)

- 5a. ☐ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), it is stated that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
5b. ☐ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2), it is stated that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

6. ☐ This is a continuation/divisional/continuation-in-part application under 37 CFR § 1.53(b).

(Check appropriate Items 6a and/or 6b)

- 6a. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were previously cited in prior application Serial No. __, filed on __, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, have been omitted pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.98(d).
6b. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were not previously cited in prior application Serial No. __, filed on __, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, are provided herewith.

7. ☐ This is a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114.
(Check either Item 7a or 7b)
- 7a. ☐ The Issue Fee has not been paid.
- 7b. ☐ A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 CFR § 1.313(c) is filed concurrently herewith or has been granted. A Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114, after payment of the Issue Fee, is proper in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.114(a), respectively.
8. ☐ This is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.
(Check either Item 8a or 8b)
- 8a. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on _____. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 CFR § 1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental IDS can be considered as if properly filed on _____.
- 8b. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed within one (1) month of the Notice under 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, mailed _____.
9. ☒ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:
(Check appropriate Items 9a, 9b, 9c and/or 9d)
- 9a. ☐ satisfied for the non-English language publication(s) cited on the enclosed "English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office". (See MPEP § 609, Minimum Requirements for an Information Disclosure Statement, Part A(3): Concise Explanation of Relevance, 8th Ed., Rev. 2)
- 9b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 9c. ☐ satisfied for the non-English language publication(s) indicated on the attached Form PTO-1449 as having an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached thereto.
- 9d. ☒ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
10. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

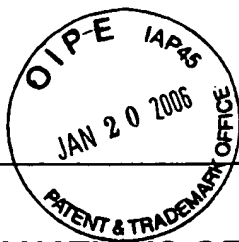
11. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17 for this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: January 20, 2006
1201 New York Ave., N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

By: David M. Pitcher
David M. Pitcher
Registration No. 25,908

**ATTACHMENT 1(e)****EXPLANATIONS OF RELEVANCY
OF REFERENCES**

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	APPLICATION NO.
1743.1002	10/608,080
FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	
Kohji NOMA et al.	
FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
June 30, 2003	2123

Reference AI, as presently advised, discloses reviewing a layout of a vehicle cabin, the study for positioning of occupants in a vehicle is necessary. For the study, a 2-D or 3-D mannequin defined by the SAE (Society of Auto motive Engineers, Inc.) is available. The hip portion of the mannequin is called "H-POINT" as a standard point for the study, and it is important to establish a design standard based on the H-POINT. Among important parameters for a layout of a cabin, an order of priority of parameters with regard to spaciousness is space girth of the knee, visual sense of spaciousness, and space girth of the head.

Reference AJ, as presently advised, discloses a virtual factory for simulating a real factory attracts attention. For realizing the virtual factory, it needs to simulate movements of a worker in a virtual space such as a virtual human in the field of computer games. A company already begins to preview facility of maintenance and workability by using a human-movement-simulator.

Reference AK, as presently advised, discloses A static human simulator which is added in a CAD. The simulator displays a product model and a human model in a virtual space for assessing, for example, whether or not a human gets at an operable object in a product and field of vision of a human.

Reference AL, as presently advised, discloses that a cabin space of a vehicle is restricted by a basic layout of the vehicle, body structures and the size of components, and planning or simulating by using a CAD is becoming popular.



ATTACHMENT 1(g)

LIST OF ADDITIONAL SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	APPLICATION NO.
1743.1002	10/608,080
FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	
Kohji NOMA et al.	
FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
June 30, 2003	2123

The following document(s) is/are listed in accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, so that the Examiner may consider same should he deem any thereof to be material to examination of the subject application.

It is requested that the Examiner acknowledge his consideration of document(s) below-listed by initialing same in the space provided adjacent each such application and that the Examiner sign and date this form at the bottom thereof to confirm such consideration having been given.

This submission in no way represents an admission that any of the information listed herein constitutes prior art with respect to the subject application; and unless and until such prior art status is established, this submission is not a request that the information presented herein be printed on the face of any patent issuing from the subject application in which this information is being filed.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA						
	AB						

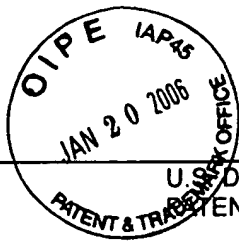
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AC							
	AD							

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

							TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AE	Japanese Patent Office Action Dated April 8, 2005, issued in the Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-201706.						X
	AF	Japanese Patent Office Action Dated November 1, 2005, issued in the Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-201708.						X

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if document considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	



Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1743.1002	APPLICATION NO. 10/608,080
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Kohji NOMA et al.	
		FILING DATE June 30, 2003	GROUP/ART UNIT 2123

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
AA						
AB						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION		ABSTRACT
				YES	NO	
AC	6-52265	02/25/94	Japan			X
AD	10-289262	10/27/98	Japan			X
AE	10-240791	09/11/98	Japan			X
AF	11-34089	05/21/99	Japan			X
AG	8-273003	10/18/96	Japan			X
AH						

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			TRANSLATION	
			YES	NO
	AI	Koichi MATSUDA, "Application of human body dimension in ergonomic study in developing a vehicle", Measurement and Control, The Society of Instrument and Control Engineers, February 10, 1997, Vol. 36, No. 2, p. 112-113.		X
	AJ	Masaru YOSHIDA, "The Virtual human begins to fight on a virtual factory", Nikkei Digital Engineering, Nikkei Business Publications. Inc., September 15, 2000, Vol. 34, p.126-131.		X
	AK	Masaru YOSHIDA, "Assessing operationality with designing on a CAD", Nikkei Digital Engineering, Nikkei Business Publications. Inc., February 15, 2001, Vol. 39, p. 35.		X
	AL	"Automotive Engineering Handbook", First Edition, The Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan, 1991, p. 20.		X

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	